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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION



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1937 Agricultural Conservation Program - Northeast Region

16 WAYS TO CONSERVE FARM SOIL AND QUALIFY FOR PAYMENTS

SOIL-BUILDING PRACTICES

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## TO MAINE FARMERS

If you do one or more of these 16 things you can qualify for payment under the 1937 Agricultural Conservation Program. The payments will cover part of the cost of using the practices. This leaflet gives the rates of payment for each practice and tells just what to do to be eligible for a payment.

After reading about the practices you are interested in using, you also will need to read several other sections of this leaflet. A top limit will be established for the amount which may be earned for soil-building practices on any one farm. "The Soil-Building Allowance" (page 3) will enable you to figure out what that allowance will be for your farm. "Steps in Applying for Payment" (page 11) and "Other Points Affecting Payment" (page 11) also contain information you will need. Terms such as "cropland" and "open noncropped pasture" have very definite meanings as far as this program is concerned. These and other definitions are given on page 13.

If you live in one of the five counties where payments will be made for diverting acreage from soil-depleting crops, you probably will want to read the section on diversion, on page 9.

After you find out just how the program will help you carry out your plans for good farming, you will need to discuss these plans with your county agent or committeeman, to make sure that what you intend to do can be approved as good farming for your particular land.

You probably will not find anything unfamiliar to you in the list of soil-building practices. All of them are suited to conditions in Maine and have been encouraged by the State Extension Service. Many successful farmers have been using the practices for years. Liming, for instance, is needed for sweetening acid soils. The soil on many farms in the State needs either phosphoric acid, or potash or nitrogen or combinations of the three to supply the proper plant food. Turning under green-manure crops enriches the soil. And so on.

## THE SOIL-BUILDING ALLOWANCE

Maine farmers who properly carry out one or more approved soil-building practices will be eligible for payments within the limits of their soil-building allowances. The soil-building allowance is the largest amount which may be earned for soil-building practices on a farm. A farmer may earn all or part of his allowance, depending on the approved practices he uses. But he cannot earn more than his allowance, no matter how many practices he uses.

The basis for establishing the allowance for farms not eligible to earn diversion payments will be slightly different from that for allowances for farms which are eligible for diversion payments. The diversion payment does not come out of the soil-building allowance. Every farm not eligible



to earn diversion payments will have an allowance of at least \$20.00, even if the items listed below do not add up to that amount. Diversion farms will have a soil-building allowance of at least \$10.00.

The following items will be counted in determining a farm's soil-building allowance:

For farms not eligible for diversion payments. \$1.00 for each acre of cropland.

For farms eligible for diversion payments. \$1.00 for each acre of cropland on the farm, minus the number of acres in the farm's general soil-depleting base; then \$1.00 will be added for each acre diverted from the soil-depleting base, up to the largest diversion for which payment can be made.

For all farms (diversion and nondiversion) the following items, in addition to the \$1.00 per acre for cropland already noted will be counted in the allowance:

\$1.00 for each acre of commercial orchards cultivated on the farm on January 1, 1937.

\$1.00 for each acre of cropland on which only one crop of commercial vegetables was grown in 1936.

\$2.00 for each acre of cropland on which two or more crops of commercial vegetables were grown on the same acreage in 1936.

40 cents for each acre of fenced noncrop open pasture land in excess of one-half of the number of acres of cropland on the farm.

### SOIL-BUILDING PRACTICES

A farmer may choose and carry out any one or more of the 15 approved soil-building practices which will help to improve his farm.

If a practice calls for the use of specific materials (such as limestone) a farmer may substitute equivalent amounts of any other material which serves the same purpose and still qualify for payment.

### LIMING CROPLAND AND PASTURE

PRACTICE NO. 1. Applying 500 to 4,000 lbs. of ground limestone, or its equivalent, per acre to crop or pasture land.

Payment, In Area A - \$1.00 per 500 lbs.

In Area B - \$1.25 per 500 lbs.

Area A includes: Waldo, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Androscoggin, Sagadahoc, and Cumberland Counties.

Area B includes: Hancock, Oxford, Franklin, Somerset, Aroostook, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Washington, and York Counties.

When limestone is applied in the potato rotation, payment will be made only for applying between 500 and 1,000 pounds per acre. When limestone is applied directly preceding the potato crop, payment will be made only for applying 500 pounds per acre.

75 pounds of agricultural hydrated lime (land lime) may be used as the equivalent of 100 pounds of ground limestone.

USING PHOSPHORIC ACID, POTASH, OR NITROGEN WITH SOIL CONSERVING CROPS

Applying phosphoric acid, potash, or nitrogen or approved combinations of these materials to established sod (in pasture, orchards, or hay lands) or in connection with the seeding of biennial or perennial legumes or green-manure crops.

PRACTICE NO. 2.	<u>Payment, For available phosphoric acid</u>	<u>4¢ per pound</u>
PRACTICE NO. 3.	<u>Payment, For available potash</u>	<u>3¢ per pound</u>
PRACTICE NO. 4.	<u>Payment, For available nitrogen</u>	<u>4¢ per pound</u>

No payment will be made for nitrogen in any use in excess of 32 pounds per acre, or for nitrogen applied to hay land in excess of 24 pounds per acre. When phosphoric acid is applied in connection with a seeding made in a nurse crop which is harvested for grain, the payment will be made only for amounts of phosphoric acid in excess of 32 pounds per acre. Payments will also be made for phosphoric acid when added to farm manures as a preservative and reinforcement in approved amounts indicated below and when such farm manures are for use on established sod or in connection with the seeding of biennial or perennial legumes or green-manure crops.

In making payments at the rate specified there will be limits on the amounts of plant food used per acre. If a farmer uses less than the minimum he will not be eligible for payment for that particular practice. If he uses more than the maximum he can be paid only for the maximum amount recommended.

These are the limits on pounds of plant food per acre for which payment is allowed:

<u>When fertilizer is applied as top dressing on hayland, pasture, or orchard sods</u>	<u>Smallest amount</u>	<u>Largest amount</u>
Complete fertilizer	57	192
Nitrogen on pasture or orchard sods	16	32

Con'td.	<u>Smallest amount</u>	<u>Largest amount</u>
Nitrogen on hayland sods	16	24
Phosphoric acid, with or without manure	40	80
Potash with or without manure	50	80

When fertilizer is applied to land in  
preparation for new seedings of soil-  
conserving crops

Potash	20	40
Phosphoric acid when there is no nurse crop, or nurse crop is not harvested for grain	40	80
Phosphoric acid when nurse crop is harvested for grain (no payment for first 32 pounds)	40	80

When fertilizer is applied to land in prep-  
aration for green-manure and cover crops

Phosphoric acid	40	80
Potash	20	40
Complete fertilizer (with non- legume crops only)	57	100

When superphosphate is applied to animal  
manure as reinforcement and preservative

Not less than 15 pounds  
or more than 35 pounds  
of 20% superphosphate (or  
its equivalent) per ton  
of manure.

The manure so treated must be applied so that the application of phosphoric acid in the manure will conform to the requirements outlined under this heading "Using Phosphoric Acid, Potash, or Nitrogen with Conserving Crops".

SEEDING LEGUMES

PRACTICE NO. 5. Seeding varieties of biennial or perennial legumes or mixtures containing such legumes, using at least 8 pounds per acre of hardy northern medium red clover seed or its equivalent in other legume seed.

Payment, \$2.00 per acre.

To qualify for payment, seedings must be made between March 1, 1937,



and September 15, 1937, on land where enough lime and fertilizer to ordinarily establish a good stand was applied in 1936 or 1937. If the seeding is made without such preparation, the farmer must submit to his County Committee a soil test showing that lime and fertilizer are not needed.

#### GROWING SMALL GRAINS OR ANNUAL GRASSES AS GREEN-MANURE AND COVER CROPS

PRACTICE NO. 6. Plowing or disking under small grains, annual grasses, or mixtures of these with legumes, after they have attained at least 2 months' or 12 inches' growth.

Payment, \$1.50 per acre.

Seeding must be made in 1937, not later than September 15. A one-year green-manure crop is not recommended on hilly land. To prevent erosion a longer rotation is advised.

Any one or more of the following non-leguminous crops may be used in this practice: wheat, rye, barley, oats, millet, buckwheat, rape, and similar crops. The following minimum rates of seeding are recommended when the following crops are seeded alone:

Rye	1 1/2 bushels per acre
Oats	3 bushels per acre
Barley	2 bushels per acre
Buckwheat	72 pounds per acre
Millet	30 pounds per acre

#### GROWING LEGUMES AS GREEN-MANURE OR COVER CROPS

PRACTICE NO. 7. Plowing or disking under biennial or perennial legumes from which no crop has been harvested and for which no seeding payment will be, or has been, made under this or any previous program, and which have attained at least two months' or 12 inches' growth, or annual legumes which have attained such growth.

Payment, \$2.50 per acre.

Seeding must be made in 1937, not later than September 15. Legumes recommended for seeding under this practice are any one or more of the following: clovers, soybeans, vetch, alfalfa, peas, or similar crops. The following minimum rates of seeding are recommended when the following crops are seeded alone:

Soybeans	90 pounds per acre
Field peas	90 pounds per acre
Red clover (mammoth or medium)	12 pounds per acre
Crimson clover	20 pounds per acre
Vetch	50 pounds per acre



When a green-manure crop is turned under on land normally devoted to commercial vegetables, not including potatoes, so that at least one crop of commercial vegetables is replaced, the rates of payment listed for practices 6 and 7 will be doubled.

If a green-manure crop is one that is normally winter killed, payments may be earned for leaving the entire crop on the land during the next winter, instead of turning it under.

#### GROWING GREEN-MANURE AND COVER CROPS ON POTATO LAND

PRACTICE NO. 8. Plowing under clover after August 15, 1937, on land normally devoted to commercial potato production, from which no crop has been harvested in 1937; providing the clover is a substantial second-year crop in its entirety (entirety means both first and second crop).

Payment, \$3.00 per acre.

#### MULCHING ORCHARDS

PRACTICE NO. 9. Applying to orchards not less than 2 tons, and not more than 5 tons per acre of mulching material in addition to leaving in the orchard all materials produced therein during 1937 from grasses, legumes, or green-manure or cover crops.

Payment, \$2.00 per ton.

Recommended mulching materials are wild or native grasses, legumes, straw, or course litter, or other air-dried material approved by the County Committee as suitable under local conditions.

#### CONTOUR CULTIVATING (IN AROOSTOOK COUNTY ONLY)

PRACTICE NO. 10. Cultivating on the contour when the slope is 5 percent or greater.

Payment, \$2.00 per acre so cultivated.

This practice shall be carried out according to plans approved in advance by the County Committee based upon the recommendation of the Soil Conservation Service.

#### STRIP CROPPING (IN AROOSTOOK COUNTY ONLY)

PRACTICE NO. 11. Establishing and maintaining contour strips of sod on fields with a slope of 5 percent or greater devoted to intertilled crops.

Payment, \$2.00 per acre of such sod strips.

This practice shall be carried out according to plans approved in advance by the County Committee based upon the recommendation of the Soil Conservation Service.

## PLANTING FOREST TREES

PRACTICE NO. 12. Planting transplanted forest trees of approved varieties at the rate of at least 1,000 trees per acre, spaced about 6 x 6 feet.

Payment, \$10.00 per acre.

Recommended species for planting are:

White pine, when currants and gooseberries have been cleaned out of the area.

Red (Norway) pine.

Red spruce.

Norway spruce.

Scotch pine, in mixed plantings.

Hybrid poplars.

## IMPROVING WOODLANDS

PRACTICE NO. 13. With prior approval of the County Committee, improving the stand of forest trees by cutting weed trees, or thinning or pruning other trees, to develop approximately 100 potential timber trees of desirable species well distributed over an acre of woodland.

Payment, \$3.00 per acre.

If pruning is one of the practices used it must be confined to pine not over 8 inches in diameter and must be done with a saw or pruning shears after the area has been thinned.

## BUILDING TWO-STRAND WOODLAND PASTURE FENCES

PRACTICE NO. 14. Constructing fence consisting of not less than two strands of barbed wire with posts or other suitable supports not more than one rod apart, for the purpose of excluding livestock from farm woodland previously used for pasture.

Payment, \$ .15 per rod.

## BUILDING THREE-STRAND WOODLAND PASTURE FENCES

PRACTICE NO. 15. Constructing fence consisting of not less than three strands of barbed wire, or of woven wire at least 24 inches high with not less than one strand of barbed wire, with posts or other suitable supports not more than one rod apart, for the purpose of excluding livestock from farm woodlots previously used for pasture.

Payment, \$ .20 per rod.

## PAYMENTS FOR DIVERSION

Areas Eligible for Diversion. Some farms in certain areas of the State will be eligible for diversion payments. The only counties where diversion payments will be offered are Aroostook, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, and Waldo.

Farms Eligible for Diversion. In diversion areas, farms with general soil-depleting bases of 20 acres or more will be eligible for general diversion payments. In special cases, the County Committee may under applicable rules find that a farm which has a soil-depleting base of less than 20 acres is eligible for general diversion payments if in a diversion area.

Payment for Diversion. For eligible farms, general diversion payments will be made for each acre diverted from the general soil-depleting base up to 15 percent of that base. The payment for each acre diverted will depend on the productivity of the crop land on each farm. The rate will be such that the average for the United States will be \$9.00 an acre.

Minimum Acreage of Soil-Conserving Crops. If a farm is to receive full payment, the number of acres diverted must be equaled by the number of acres in additional soil-conserving crops. If the number of acres in soil-conserving crops is less than the farm's soil-conserving base acreage, plus the number of acres diverted from soil-depleting crops, deductions will be made from payments otherwise earned. The rate of the deduction will be \$3.00 for each acre by which the soil-conserving acreage falls short of the required total.

Increase in Acreage of General Soil-Depleting Crops on Farms in Eligible Diversion Areas. In diversion areas deductions will be made from payments if the 1937 acreage of soil-depleting crops is larger than the farm's general soil-depleting base acreage. The deduction for each acre by which the base is exceeded will be at the diversion rate for the farm.

## CLASSIFICATION OF LAND USE AND CROPS

Farm land shall be classified as follows:

Soil-Depleting: Land on which any of the following crops are grown shall be classified as soil-depleting. In establishing soil-depleting bases and in checking performance, the acreage of land which is devoted to two or more soil-depleting crops shall be counted only once.

Corn (field corn or popcorn) except sowed corn plowed under.

Potatoes.

Truck and vegetable crops, including sweet corn, melons, and strawberries.

Grain sorghums, sweet sorghums, Italian ryegrass, millets, and Sudan grass, if harvested for grain, hay, or forage.



Small grains - wheat, oats, barley, rye, buckwheat, and grain mixtures, for grain or hay.

Bulbs and flowers.

Annual legumes (soybeans, cowpeas, field peas, field beans) harvested for grain or hay.

Rape, except when plowed or disked under.

Soil-Conserving: Land on which any of the following crops are grown shall be classified as soil-conserving.

If two or more soil-conserving crops are grown on the same land during any year the acreage of such land counted as soil-conserving shall not exceed the acreage on which such crops are grown.

Sweet, medium red, alsike, and mammoth red clover, alfalfa, and white clover.

Vetch, winter peas, and bur or crimson clover.

Soybeans, except when harvested for grain or hay.

Sudan grass, millet, Italian ryegrass, and sorghums, not harvested for grain, hay, or forage.

Sowed corn or rape, when plowed or disked under.

Bluegrass, redtop, timothy, orchard grass, and mixtures of any of these.

Rye, oats, barley, wheat, buckwheat, and grain mixtures, not cut for grain or hay; provided a good growth is left on the land or plowed under.

Forest trees planted on crop land.

Soil-Conserving Crops Grown on Land Used for the Production of a Soil-Depleting Crop. Land in any of the combinations of soil-depleting and soil-conserving crops listed below shall be counted twice--once as soil-depleting, and once as soil-conserving.

All the land from which a soil-depleting crop is harvested in 1937 and followed by legumes (classified as soil-conserving) or perennial grasses (whether seeded in or following such crop).

All the land on which green-manure crops are seeded following commercial vegetables and plowed under as green-manure after having attained at least two months' or 12 inches' growth.

Neutral Uses: Land used in the following ways shall not be classified either as soil-conserving or soil-depleting:



Vineyards, tree fruits, small fruits, nut trees, and perennial vegetables not interplanted (any portion of the area which is interplanted shall carry the classification and actual acreage of such interplanted crop).

Idle crop land.

Cultivated fallow land.

Waste land, roads, lanes, lots, yards, and other similar non-crop land.

Woodland other than crop land planted to forest trees.

#### STEPS IN APPLYING FOR PAYMENT

To be eligible to participate in the 1937 Agricultural Conservation Program a farmer must make out all required forms and submit other required information. Forms and information shall be filed with the County Committee within time limits established by the State Committee with the approval of the Director of the Northeast Division, Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

Payment will be made only upon application on the proper form filed with the County Committee within the time fixed by the Secretary of Agriculture, supported by any information regarding farming operation that may be required.

An application for payment may be made by any producer who is entitled to receive all or a share of the crops produced on the farm in 1937, or of the proceeds thereof, or who incurs all or any part of the expense of soil-building practices carried out on the farm.

#### OTHER POINTS AFFECTING PAYMENT

Rates of payment. The rates of payment listed in this leaflet are contingent upon the Congress of the United States appropriating the amount authorized each year for carrying out sections 7-17 of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act. Also, the rates listed may be increased or decreased by not more than 10 percent, depending on how many farmers take part in the program.

Approval required. Payment will be made only if a soil-building practice is in line with generally accepted standards of good farming. For that reason, every farmer who plans to carry out a soil-building practice should consult with his County Committee, to make sure that the practice is suitable to his farm and that the materials and methods he plans to use are according to approved standards.

Time Limit. Payments under the 1937 program will be made only for practices carried out before December 1, 1937.

No duplication of payments. No payment will be made for a practice carried out on any acreage if labor or seed or other material used in carrying out the practice is furnished free or paid for by a State or Federal agency.

Increase in acreage of general soil-depleting crops on farms not in eligible diversion areas. The Secretary of Agriculture reserves the right to make deductions from payments otherwise earned if in 1937 a farm's acreage of general soil-depleting crops is in excess of 20 acres and is larger than the farm's soil-depleting base acreage. The rate of deduction would be \$9.00 per acre, scaled up or down according to the productivity of each farm.

Expenses of Associations. In computing payments, deductions will be made for county Agricultural Conservation Association expenses.

1937 Operation Must Be Consistent With Program. Payments may be withheld if any rotation, cropping system, or other practice which tends to defeat the purpose of the program is adopted in 1937.

Other Government Programs. On any farm where a program is carried out in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service or the Resettlement Administration, payment will be made only for carrying out such soil-building practices as are, prior to performance, approved for the farm by the County Committee in accordance with special instructions issued by the Secretary of Agriculture governing such cases.

Division of Payments. On farms where two or more producers are concerned, the soil-building payment shall be divided among them in proportion to each producer's share of the total expense of carrying out the soil-building practices.

The diversion payment shall be divided among the producers concerned in the same proportion as the crops in the general soil-depleting base are divided.

#### MEMBERSHIP IN ASSOCIATION

Any person having an interest in the crops or the proceeds thereof produced on any farm in the county in 1937 shall become a member of the County Agricultural Conservation Association of the county whenever any form or information required in connection with the Agricultural Conservation Program for 1937 is submitted for the farm in which he is interested, or whenever in 1937 he attends a meeting called for the purpose of electing committeemen. Any person shall cease to be a member of the association if in 1937 an application for payment is not filed by him within the time specified by the Secretary of Agriculture for the filing of applications.

Each county association shall designate a group of persons to assist in the administration of the 1937 program in the county. That group will be known as the County Agricultural Conservation Committee, or County Committee.

### DEFINITIONS

Crop land is farm land which is tillable and on which at least one crop other than wild hay was harvested or planted for harvest between January 1, 1930, and January 1, 1937, and any other farm land devoted on January 1, 1937, to fruit orchards, vineyards, or cultivated bush fruits, other than those abandoned.

Commercial orchards means the acreage in tree fruits, cultivated nut trees, vineyards, or cultivated bush fruits on the farm on January 1, 1937, from which the principal part of the production is normally sold, including also the acreage of young nonbearing orchards from which the principal part of the production will be sold in 1937 or later.

Commercial vegetables means the acreage of vegetables or truck crops (including among others potatoes, sweetpotatoes, melons, cantaloups, and strawberries, but excluding sweet corn for canning and peas for canning) from which the principal part of the production was sold off the farm in 1936.

Open non-crop pasture means fenced non-crop pasture land on which the predominant growth is forage suitable for dairy animals, and on which the number or grouping of any trees or shrubs is such that the land could not fairly be considered as woodland. Such land must be capable of supporting at least one cow or one horse (or the equivalent in smaller animals) during the normal pasture season. Among the equivalents of one cow or one horse are five sheep, five goats, two calves, or two colts.

General soil-depleting base means the number of acres established for the farm as the acreage normally used for the production of all soil-depleting crops.

Soil-conserving base is the difference between the total crop land (excluding commercial orchards, etc.) and the 1937 general soil-depleting base established for the farm.



